

REMARKS

1. Summary

Claims 18 – 20 and 53 – 58 have been examined. Claim 55 has been canceled, and claims 18 and 20 have been amended.

Claims 18 – 20, 53, 54 and 56 – 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. Publ. No. 2003/0015965 (“Godyak”). Claims 18 – 20, 53, 54 and 56 – 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,392,351 (“Shun'ko ‘351”) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,998,933 (“Shun'ko ‘933”).

2. Amendment

Independent claim 18 has been amended to include recitations previously found in claims 20 and 55. Independent claim 18 now recites “a transformer-coupled plasma generator within the undivided processing chamber compartment disposed between the first substrate support structure and the second substrate support structure, wherein the transformer-coupled plasma generator includes a plasma generating plate having at least one transformer core within the plasma generating plate and a plurality of through holes forming conduits from a first side of the plate to a second side of the plate, and wherein at least one conduit does not pass through one of the transformer cores.” Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 55 as it might now apply to claim 18.

Neither Shun'ko ‘351 nor Shun'ko ‘933 teaches or suggests a conduit through a plasma generator plate which does not pass through a transformer core. Every conduit described in Shun'ko ‘351 and Shun'ko ‘933 passes through at least one transformer core. For example, in figures 6 and 6a of Shun'ko ‘351, both conduits are shown passing through a transformer core. In figures 3 and 7 of Shun'ko ‘351, the conduit is shown passing through either one or two transformer cores (though these conduits do not go from one side of the plate to the other as recited in claim 18). Even if it was suggested by either Shun'ko reference that one of the transformer cores in a plasma generator plate could be deactivated, all conduits taught or suggested would still pass through a transformer core.

All other claims present for examination depend either directly or indirectly from claim 18, and are therefore believed to be allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim.

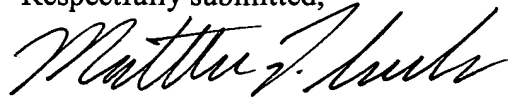
Examination of the claims as amended is accordingly requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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